The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) is the designated agency to conduct MSP operations. The CCI was last required to conduct these operations in 1985-86 and, partly, in 1986-87.

Delay in Transporting Cargo from Inland Container Depot, Tuglakabad

2757. SHRI BHAGBAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a lot of delay in transporting cargo to sea ports from the Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Tuglakabad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the average transit time from ICD, Tuglakabad to key sea ports; and

(d) the steps taken to avoid such delay?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The average transit from ICD, Tuglakabad to the Key Sea Ports *viz.* Bombay Port and Jawaharlal Nehru Port during November, 1996 has been about 93 hrs. and 117 hrs. respectively. The average transit time from ICD, Tuglakabad to Madras Port was 167 hrs. in September, 1996. Due to cyclonic weather and unprecedented rains in the month of October and November, 1996, the train services to Madras Port were seriously disrupted.

(d) Attempts have been made by CONCOR and Indian Railways to run trains on scheduled paths. Locomotive deployment has been rationalised. Train examination systems have been streamlined. There is continuous monitoring of these trains by both CONCOR & Indian Railways.

Setting up cavitation Tunnel at the Naval science and technology Laboratory

2758. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Cavitation Tunnel at the Naval Science and Technology Laboratory in Visakhapatnam has been set up;

(b) if so, the speciality of the proposed hydrodynamic test facility; and

(c) the target for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir, However, the Government have already accorded sanction for setting up such a facility at the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, Visakhapatnam.

(b) The Cavitation Tunnel is a part of marine hydro-dynamic test facility and will be used for generating data to predict hydrodynamic characteristics of marine platforms for validation of design.

(c) Setting up of the Cavitation Tunnel facility is planned to be completed by November 1999.

Allotment of Shops in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place

2759. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation from public, FPS owners and the Department of Food and Civil Supplies for allotment of Ground Floor shops in the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place, Baird Lane, New Delhi;

(b) whether public at large are facing great difficulties in getting their food articles from FPSs which are located at the upper storeys;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider its decision and allot Ground Floor shops to FPS; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has reported that a request

to this effect was received from a Member of Parliament and Department of Food Supply and Consumer Affairs of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. However, no specific complaint appears to have been received from any card holder.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under the consideration of NDMC at present. The allotment of the Fair Price Shop as also other shops in the Complex was made on the basis of draw of lots. A petition for shifting the Fair Price Shop from the Ist Floor to the ground floor of the Complex made before the High Court of Delhi was rejected by the Hon'ble Court.

Criterion for Telephone Connection in Village

2760. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a maximum distance of 5 Kms. from the concerned Telephone Exchange has been fixed for providing telephone connections in villages;

(b) whether the criterion is subject to relaxation;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the other criteria fixed in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken for providing telephone connections to the persons living in remote areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The limit of 5 Kms. radial distance has been prescribed on technical and economic conisderations.

(d) and (e) Telephone connections beyond 5 Kms radial distance on beyond local area of exchange system are provided as long distance connections if there is no other exchange to serve such area. Long distance charges are leviable from such connections for the distance beyond 5 Kms radial distance /local area. A new exchange is opened in areas where there is no telephone exchange and there is a minimum registered demand of 10 connections.

Failure in Execution of Garment export Orders

2761. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several garment exporters based in the northen region in the country have failed to execute shipments against the peak season orders meant for sale in the U.S. and Europe during Christian new Year period;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) its impact on the garment industries?

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) Garment exporters based in the northern region of the country, in general, have not failed to axecute shipments against the peak season orders meant for Christmas sales in the U.S.A. and Europe. However, there may a few exceptions, as is the case with shipments all through the year.

Superfine 'Suvin' Cotton Production by Tamilnadu

2762. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tamilnadu is producing a superfine extra large staple variety of cotton 'Suvin' which is equivalent to Egyptian, Variety 'Giza';

(b) whether it is a fact that there is huge demand in the international market for 'Suvin'; and